

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the arguments set forth fully below. In the Office Action mailed October 23, 2002, claims 1-31 and 33-44 have been rejected and claim 32 has been objected to. In response, the Applicant has submitted the following remarks and amended claims 1, 10, 26 and 32. Accordingly, claims 1-44 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks below.

Claim Objections

Claim 32 stands objected as line 3, "a." and line 5, "b." can not use the '.' unless the period is used as an end of the claim. Through the above amendment, Applicant has corrected claim 32 by deleting the '.' after both the "a" and the "b", and inserting a ")". Applicant has also amended claims 1, 10 and 26 accordingly to be consistent with claim 32.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 10 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,982,418 to Ely (hereinafter Ely). In particular, it is asserted within the Office Action that claims 1, 10 and 26 are anticipated in that Ely discloses an apparatus/method for receiving video signals from video cameras, comprising a selector having a plurality of wherein each input receives one of a plurality of video signals, a video decoder coupled to the selector for receiving a selected one of the plurality of video signals and a controller coupled to the video decoder for conditioning the video decoder according to a parameter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that Ely does not teach a controller coupled to the video decoder for conditioning the video decoder according to a parameter.

Ely discloses a video surveillance system including a central control station and a plurality of video cameras each mounted inside a dome housing unit. A video data buffer memory, storing compressed video data generated by the camera, is mounted with each camera in the respective dome unit. Data buffered at the dome units may be selectively protected from overwriting in response to alarm signals and then retrieved for display or tape-recording by the central control station. Both live and buffered video signals are transmitted in compressed form over a data network that is also used for command, alarm and status messaging. [Ely, Abstract] However, Ely does not teach a controller coupled to the video decoder for conditioning the video

decoder according to a parameter. In fact, Ely teaches a video surveillance system having a decoder that is conditioned to receive commands from the Host, where the Host provides instruction to the Decoder in response to which the Decoder decodes and processes video data transmitted by the camera. [Ely, column 9, lines 6-11] Ely further states that a routing connection is made via this instruction to the receiving device rather than via an instruction to the sending device. [Ely, column 9, lines 11-15]

In contrast to the teachings of Ely, the apparatus and method of receiving video signals from video cameras of the present invention includes video cameras each coupled to provide a video signal to a respective input of a multiplexer. The multiplexer routes a selected one of the video signals to a video decoder. The video decoder receives the selected video signal and is conditioned according to the video signal. This includes synchronizing the video decoder to a frequency and phase of the video signal, controlling a gain level for the video signal and adjusting a dc clamping level for dc restoration of the video signal. Parameters representative of each of these quantities are stored in association with the identity of the corresponding video camera. The video decoder also places each video signal into a format suitable for storage in a storage device and for display by a display device. As the multiplexer is utilized to cycle through the cameras according to a sequence, the parameters for each camera are retrieved and utilized to initialize the video decoder for decoding the video signal received from the corresponding camera. As a result, the amount of time required to condition the video decoder according to the video signal received from each camera is significantly reduced. [Abstract of the Present Invention] The present invention thereby teaches an apparatus and method having a controller that conditions the decoder to receive inputs from a plurality of cameras **according to a parameter**. However, the controller provides instruction to the Multiplexer, not the decoder. As described above, Ely does not teach a controller coupled to the video decoder for conditioning the video decoder according to a parameter.

The independent claim 1 is directed to an apparatus for receiving video signals from a plurality of video cameras. The apparatus of claim 1 includes a selector having a plurality of inputs wherein each input receives one of a plurality of video signals, a video decoder coupled to an output of the selector wherein the video decoder receives a selected one of the plurality of video signals and a controller coupled to the video decoder wherein the controller conditions the video decoder according to a parameter representative of the selected one of the video signals. As described above, Ely does not teach a controller coupled to the video decoder wherein the

controller conditions the video decoder according to a parameter representative of the selected one of the video signals. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Ely.

The independent claim 10 is directed to an apparatus for receiving video signals from a plurality of video cameras. The apparatus of claim 10 includes a selector having a plurality of inputs wherein each input receives one of a plurality of video signals, a video decoder coupled to an output of the selector wherein the video decoder receives a selected one of the plurality of video signals and a controller coupled to the video decoder wherein the controller conditions the video decoder according to a plurality of parameters representative of the selected one of the video signals. As described above, Ely does not teach a controller coupled to the video decoder wherein the controller conditions the video decoder according to a plurality of parameters representative of the selected one of the video signals. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 10 is allowable over the teachings of Ely.

The independent claim 26 is directed to a method of receiving video signals from a plurality of video cameras. The method of claim 26 includes selecting one of the plurality of video cameras for providing a video signal to a video decoder, retrieving a parameter representative of the video signal from a memory store and conditioning the video decoder according to the parameter. As described above, Ely does not teach conditioning the video decoder according to the parameter. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 26 is allowable over the teachings of Ely.

Claims 2-3 and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,982,418 to Ely (hereinafter Ely). In particular, it is asserted within the Office Action that claims 2-3 and 11-12 are anticipated in that Ely discloses a memory device for storing parameter in a storage location. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that Ely does not teach a memory device for storing parameter in a storage location. Claims 2 and 3 depend from the independent claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 is allowable over Ely. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 11 and 12 depend from the independent claim 10. As discussed above, claim 10 is allowable over Ely. Accordingly, claims 11 and 12 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-7, 10-18, 22-23, 26-31, 33-39 and 43-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,139 to Cooper et al. (hereinafter Cooper). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Cooper teaches a plurality of video cameras each sending a video signal and an audio signal to a video controller. Each of the video cameras receive a vertical drive signal and a horizontal drive signal from the video controller. A sensor interface sends sensor signals to the video controller. The video controller sends camera status signals to camera status indicators which indicate which of the video cameras are active. The video controller determines which of the video cameras are active, selects the video signals from one of the plurality of cameras, inserts a camera number code into the selected video signals which corresponds to the selected video camera, inserts indicator symbology into the selected video signals which represent the information from the status interface, and sends the selected video having the camera number code and the indicator symbology to a video recorder. [Cooper, Abstract]

As recognized within the Office Action, Cooper does not teach that the video decoder is not coupled to a selector to receive a selected video signal. However, it is concluded within the Office Action that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to couple the video decoder to a selector for receiving a selected video signal in order to decode/encode the selected video signal. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this conclusion. There is no hint, teaching or suggestion in Cooper to couple the video decoder to a selector for receiving a selected video signal in order to decode/encode the selected video signal.

Further, because the Applicant submits that Cooper does not even disclose a controller coupled to the video decoder for conditioning the video decoder according to a parameter, and initializing and obtaining an initial value upon a start up during a first cycle wherein a video frame is captured from each camera, the Applicant submits that even if the structure of Cooper included a video decoder coupled to the selector as proposed by the Examiner, the result would necessarily constitute a structure different from that of the Applicant, and one that would not accomplish the result of the claimed invention in that the cited reference does not include a video decoder coupled to the selector **and** a controller.

In contrast to the teachings of Cooper, the present invention includes a video decoder coupled to a selector. Also, the present invention includes a controller coupled to the video decoder for conditioning the video decoder according to a parameter, and initializing and

obtaining an initial value upon a start up during a first cycle wherein a video frame is captured from each camera.

The independent claim 1 is directed to an apparatus for receiving video signals from a plurality of video cameras. The apparatus of claim 1 includes a selector having a plurality of inputs wherein each input receives one of a plurality of video signals, a video decoder coupled to an output of the selector wherein the video decoder receives a selected one of the plurality of video signals and a controller coupled to the video decoder wherein the controller conditions the video decoder according to a parameter representative of the selected one of the video signals. As described above, Cooper does not teach or make obvious the video decoder couple to the selector or a controller coupled to the video decoder wherein the controller conditions the video decoder according to a parameter representative of the selected one of the video signals. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Cooper.

Claims 2-7 are dependent upon the independent claim 1. As discussed above, the independent claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Cooper. Accordingly, claims 2-7 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 10 is directed to an apparatus for receiving video signals from a plurality of video cameras. The apparatus of claim 10 includes a selector having a plurality of inputs wherein each input receives one of a plurality of video signals, a video decoder coupled to an output of the selector wherein the video decoder receives a selected one of the plurality of video signals and a controller coupled to the video decoder wherein the controller conditions the video decoder according to a plurality of parameters representative of the selected one of the video signals. As described above, Cooper does not teach or make obvious the video decoder couple to the selector or a controller coupled to the video decoder wherein the controller conditions the video decoder according to a parameter representative of the selected one of the video signals. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 10 is allowable over the teachings of Cooper.

Claims 11-18 and 22-23 are dependent upon the independent claim 10. As discussed above, the independent claim 10 is allowable over the teachings of Cooper. Accordingly, claims 11-18 and 22-23 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The independent claim 26 is directed to a method of receiving video signals from a plurality of video cameras. The method of claim 26 includes selecting one of the plurality of video cameras for providing a video signal to a video decoder, retrieving a parameter representative of the video signal from a memory store and conditioning the video decoder

according to the parameter. As described above, Cooper does not teach or make obvious the video decoder couple to the selector or a controller coupled to the video decoder wherein the controller conditions the video decoder according to a parameter representative of the selected one of the video signals. For at least these reasons, the independent claim 26 is allowable over the teachings of Cooper.

Claims 27-31, 33-39 and 43-44 are dependent upon the independent claim 26. As discussed above, the independent claim 26 is allowable over the teachings of Cooper.

Accordingly, claims 27-31, 33-39 and 43-44 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 8-9 and 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper as applied to claims 1 and 10 above, respectively, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,436,659 to Vincent (hereinafter Vincent). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claims 8 and 9 depend from the independent claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 is allowable over Cooper. Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 24 and 25 depend from the independent claim 10. As discussed above, claim 10 is allowable over Cooper. Accordingly, claims 24 and 25 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 19-21 and 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooper as applied to claims 10 and 26 above, respectively, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,167,021 to Holmes (hereinafter Holmes). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claims 19-21 depend from the independent claim 10. As discussed above, claim 10 is allowable over Cooper. Accordingly, claims 19-21 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

Claims 40-42 depend from the independent claim 26. As discussed above, claim 26 is allowable over Cooper. Accordingly, claims 40-42 are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. Furthermore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Holmes issued more than twenty years ago. Therefore, the combination of Cooper and Holmes asserted in the Office Action would not be obvious to anyone working in the art, or they would have long since made the proposed combination.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are now in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(e),

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington D.C. 20231

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Date: 1-16-03 By: John D. Rasmussen